



LGBTQIA+ Rainbow Commission Minutes

Date: Thursday, September 17, 2020

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Zoom Video Conference Call

Notice to the Public on remote meetings: In the interests of preventing abuse of video-conferencing, all participants, including members of the public, wishing to engage via the Zoom App must register for each meeting and will notice multi-step authentication protocols. Please allow additional time to join the meeting. Further, members of the public who wish to participate without providing their name may still do so by registering to receive the meeting info and using the telephone dial-in information provided.

Please read Governor Baker's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provision of Open Meeting Law for more information regarding virtual public hearings and meetings:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/open-meeting-law-order-march-12-2020/download>

Attendees: Commissioners Julia Forsythe (Chair), Andy Robinson (Vice Chair), Lisa Krinsky, Brooks Harrelson, Keith Mistler, Helene Newberg, Susan Ryan-Vollmar

Liaisons: Jillian Harvey- DEI, Len Diggins- Select Board, Marci Shapiro-Ide- Council on Aging, Chief Julie Flaherty- APD

Guests: Bea, Bill Barnert, Susan Ann Kehler, Bob Sprague, Kalyani Duva, Em, Sofia, Sierra, Leo

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. HN assigned as minute-taker

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Consent Agenda
 - a. SRV moves to approve consent agenda. BH seconds, motion carries.
3. Community Updates

- a. Twelve Pride Month Banners have been up through town, along Mass Ave
 - b. Virtual events in the works will include observance of Transgender Day of Remembrance
- 4. Arlington High School GSA Updates
 - KMM video modeling normalizing use of and respect for each individual's pronouns in classrooms
 - MSI invited GSA (and everyone) to weekly Tuesday Seniors and Friends drop-in Zooms, 2p-4:30pm; November SAGE Table, Robbins Library Reel Queer programming, and intergenerational book club
 - Em video re: Importance of school and community support
- 5. Update on Business Bias and Discrimination Task Group
 - a. Continues to explore establishing a program to support businesses in becoming and remaining welcoming
 - b. Partnership between AHRC, Disability Commission and ARC
 - c. Gender neutral bathrooms are important
 - d. Suggestion to include Diversity Task Group in developing the program
- 6. Communications Update
 - a. SRV continuing to focus on growing FB, Twitter, Instagram
 - b. Launching a meet-the-commissioners in October
- 7. Review Policies and Procedures
 - a. To improve information sharing and meeting flow
 - b. ARC, HRC and DC discussed best practices including the use of working groups and structures to support productive public input
 - c. Public input received during open forum would be taken up, if appropriate, at following meeting
 - d. Public input requiring a more immediate response may be elevated to n agenda item
 - e. JF will lead a working group to propose procedures to review at the October Meeting
- 8. APD Policy on Interacting with Trans Individuals
 - a. ARC bylaws call for the Commission to engage with town departments. The Commission was formed to collaborate with town departments, schools, and community groups
 - b. Review still in progress
 - c. We may be able to get a copy of Cambridge PD policy
 - d. SRV moved to create a working group to further the review, LK seconds, motion passes.
 - e. AR moved to create a Community Engagement working group with AR leading, HN seconded, motion passes (AR, BH, KMM)

9. Public Engagement and Open Commentary

- a. Bill B: Cambridge LGBTQPlus Commission meets the 4th Thursday of each month, we are welcome to attend; ARC is involved in conversations with Cambridge regarding establishment of Community Center
 - b. Len D: offered to look at other towns in the state that have Rainbow Commissions or the life
 - c. JH gave reminder about the 9/22/2020 Community Conversation as the beginning of conversation, not the end of the conversation for Arlington
- 8:05pm: BH Moves to Adjourn: AR seconded, motion carries, meeting adjourned.

Next meeting: October 22, 2020 6:30-8:30 pm Remote Participation